



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

# **VIOLA LIUZZO MURDER**

## **PART 6 OF 14**

**FILE NUMBER : 44-28601**

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 27 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

BI BIRMGHAM

12 PM CST URGENT 4-27-65 DLR

TO DIRECTOR, MILWAUKEE, MOBILE

FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1236) (P)

IGENE THOMAS, ET AL. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL DASH VICTIMS. CR DASH EL.

MOBILE.

RE MOBILE TELETYPE APRIL TWENTYSIX LAST.

SA [REDACTED] AND OTHER BH AGENTS WILL APPEAR AS NECESSARY WITNESS IN MURDER TRIALS OF SUBJECTS AT LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA, COMMENCING MAY THREE, NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE.

ID

...ALS...

BI WASH DC

DAL

BI MILWAUK

J

60 MAY

5 1965

REC-19

44-28601-735

25 APR 28 1965

ST-108

APR 28 1965

cc Harris

MI MOBILE

APR 26 1965

TELETYPE

7 PM CST URGENT

4/26/65

VFP

DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM AND MIAMI

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

Mr. Mohr	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

IGENE THOMAS, ET AL, VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO-VICTIM CR EL.

PRELIMINARY HEARING IN HAYNEVILLE IN THIS CAPT. MATTER  
STATE COURT FOUR TWENTY SIX SIXTYFIVE RESULTING IN SEVERANCE  
THE SUBJECTS CASES. TRIAL SCHEDULED FOR FIVE THREE SIXTYFIVE  
SUBJECT COLLIER LEROY WILKINS JR.

DEFENDENTS REPRESENTED BY BIRMINGHAM ATTORNEY MATT MURPHY,  
INTRODUCED NOT GUILTY PLEAS TO FIRST DEGREE MURDER  
CHARGES. MURPHY WAS AXIOUS TO PROCEED. INDICATED HE WOULD FILE A  
MOTION TO QUASH THIS INDICTMENT ON THE BASIS THAT THE PRESIDENT  
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT OF SUBJECTS ARREST WAS PREJUDICED TO THEM AND  
MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO HAVE A FAIR TRIAL. MURPHY ALSO  
RESERVED THE RIGHT TO FILE OTHER MOTIONS AND PLEAS.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b3  
b7A  
b7C

NO DAY TRIAL.

25 APR 28 1965

END PAGE 6 MAY 3 1965.

## Memorandum

Mr. Belmont

DATE: April 23, 1965

A. Rosen

1- Mr. Belmont  
1- Mr. Rosen  
1- Mr. Malley  
1- Mr. McGowan  
1- Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS ET AL.  
VIOLA LIUZZO AKA (DECEASED)  
LEROY JEROME MATSON - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS,  
ELECTION LAWS

The Lowndes County, Alabama, Grand Jury on 4-22-65 returned an indictment against subjects William Eaton, Collie Leroy Wilkins and Eugene Thomas, charging them with the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County on the night of 3-25-65. They were arrested on the indictments on 4-22-65 and released on \$10,000 bond each. The three subjects are represented by Klan Attorney, Matt Murphy of Birmingham, Alabama, and according to press reports, Murphy has stated that he would subpoena FBI Director, John Edgar Hoover and President Lyndon Johnson for the trial scheduled for 5-3-65.

The possibility of the issuance of a state subpoena for the Director and President Johnson was discussed with Departmental Attorney, John Murphy, 4-23-65, and Murphy advised that such a subpoena would have absolutely no force and effect outside of the boundaries of the State of Alabama. The law on this point in general states that the subpoena of one state has no extra territorial effect and cannot compel the attendance of witnesses not within the state. He stated that there exists between some states an agreement concerning the production of witnesses. However, the persons involved here reside in the District of Columbia and the District of Columbia has no such agreement with any state.

It is noted that since the presence of the Director and the President cannot be commanded at the trial of this matter in Alabama, any appearance made in answer to the subpoenas would of necessity be voluntary and appropriate only if their appearance could serve the ends of justice. Neither the Director nor the President could testify to the direct facts of the case from a personal observation or participation, and therefore, their appearance would not in any way enhance the ends of justice and would be irrelevant to the trial issue.

CONTINUED - OVER

0 MAY 7 1965

PERS. REC. UNIT

12 APR 30 1965



Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.

ACTION

In the event a subpoena is issued for the Director's appearance at the trial, you will be advised and the matter will be promptly referred to the Department.

*W. J. [unclear]*

*R*

*JSM*

*[Signature]*

*V. J.*

Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



—UPI Telephoto  
 Ku Klux Klansmen William Eaton, Collie Leroy Wilkins and Eugene Thomas (left to right) conferred with their lawyer, Matt Murphy (on phone), in Birmingham yesterday after a Lowndes County, Ala., grand jury indicted them on charges of murdering civil rights worker Viola Gregg Liuzzo. They insisted they were innocent. Atty. Murphy said he would subpoena FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover and President Johnson — tho, he conceded, the President is immune from answering a subpoena — for the May 3 trial. The Klansmen were freed on \$10,000 bond each.

EUGENE THOMAS ET AL.  
 VIOLA LIUZZO AKA (DECEASED)  
 LEROY JEROME MATSON VICTIMS  
 CR - EL  
 BUFILE 44-28601

The Washington Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Mirror \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
 People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date 4/23/68

*File  
 6-117*

ENCLOSURE  
 44-28601-247

TE:

4/23/65

Re:

FBI, Birmingham(44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS; et al.;  
MRS. VIOLA LIL LO, aka;  
et al., VICTIMS;  
CR - EL

Invoice of Contents

K30

710863

REGISTERED MAIL

MAILED 25

APR 30 1965

COMM-FBI

☐ Crypt.-Tr  
☐ Document  
☐ Electroni  
☒ P & C  
☐ LFPS

Special Instructions:

1 Room: Show shipment date and registry number.  
Shipping Room: Show shipment date; bill of lading number;  
mail invoice; return to Section checked in block; after  
mailing in block, invoice to be placed in administrative file.

FBI File No.

44-38301

4/23/65

PC-85091 GY

MAY 10 1965

# Klansman Depicted As BI Informant

Special To The Times  
From The Los Angeles Times

ANTA — A Ku Klux man who was arrested in ambush slaying of Mrs. Viuzzo, a white civil rights instructor from Detroit, apparently has turned state's evidence.

indications are he was an FBI informant even before the murder.

Several charges against the man, Gary Tommy Rowe, 34, were dropped but a jury indicted three of his Klansmen.



—AP Wirephoto

## Rowe Hides Face At Birmingham Hearing

AN ATTORNEY Matt H. Murphy Jr. of Birmingham, who presented all four of the defendants, confirmed yesterday he had been unable to locate Rowe since the charges were dropped.

Murphy said it "may have been true" that Rowe was an informant prior to the Liuzzo case, but he warned "this may backfire in more than one. There are such things as counterspies."

The attorney, predicting the case will be "tremendously embarrassing to the federal government," said he plans to file writ of habeas corpus to require the FBI to reveal "where they are detaining my client." Murphy was listed as attorney for all four Klansmen when they were arrested on March 27, the day after the killing. Dismissal of the complaint against Rowe apparently came as a surprise to Murphy.

Earlier, Murphy had accused the FBI of trying to bribe Rowe to give information.

The four Klansmen were charged with violating Mrs. Liuzzo's civil rights. The Justice Department declined to explain why it withdrew the complaint against Rowe.

Eugene Thomas, 42, steelworker of Fairfield; William Orville Eaton, 41, former steelworker of Bessemer, and Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., 21, auto mechanic of Fairfield, are free under \$50,000 bond each on the charges.

When Rowe was arrested federal officials told the press the Klansman was "unemployed."

Alabama Atty. Gen. Richmond Flowers has said he will ask the Lowndes County grand jury, which convenes Monday, to return murder indictments in the case. He indicated only three indictments would be sought.

ANY LINKS between Rowe and the FBI prior to the Liuzzo killing would add another strange twist to an already unusual and controversial case.

The day after the murder, President Johnson, in an unprecedented television address, announced the four arrests, identified the defendants as Klansmen, and bitterly denounced the "hooded society of bigots."

To some this sounded like the President had prejudged the guilt of the defendants before an audience of millions. Klan leaders complained bitterly and the American Civil Liberties Union said the President's announcement was incompatible with a system of justice that presumes the defendant innocent until proven guilty.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

20 St. Petersburg Times  
St. Petersburg, Fla.

Date: April 18, 1965

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Courtland Anderson

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-28601-249  
ENCLOSURE



# Charges Against One of Four Accused Ku Kluxers Dropped

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Justice Department dropped charges yesterday against a Birmingham man who was arrested within hours after the March 25 civil rights slaying of a Detroit housewife.

In order dismissing a conspiracy charge against Gary Rowe Jr., 35, was ordered by U.S. Commissioner M. Guttery.

The motion to dismiss the charge came from Asst. U.S. J. O. Sentell.

Washington, a Justice Department spokesman said dismissal of the charge was a new action since the grand jury failed to indict Rowe. The spokesman did not comment.

Rowe was arrested with three other Birmingham area men—described by President Johnson as being members of the Ku Klux Klan—by FBI agents the day after Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, 39, was shot to death from ambush near Lowndesboro, Ala.

The shooting occurred on the highway being used by civil rights marchers for their Selma-to-Montgomery march to dramatize a voter registration campaign.

Mrs. Liuzzo, one of many out-of-state volunteers drawn to the march, had been shuttling demonstrators from Selma to the state capital. She was slain shortly after she had left a Selma church by car. A Negro

youth in the vehicle escaped injury.

The other men arrested after her death were Eugene Thomas, 42, an employee of U.S. Steel at Bessemer; Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., 21, a self-employed mechanic of Fairfield; and William Orville Eaton, 41, a retired steel worker, also of Bessemer.

A federal grand jury indicted Thomas, Eaton and Wilkins April 6 on charges of violating the constitutional rights of civil rights demonstrators. Rowe was not indicted, and dismissal of the original charges against him thus came as no surprise.

The three indicted men are free on bonds of \$50,000 each.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

3-B The Tampa Tribune  
Tampa, Florida

Date: April 15, 1965

Edition:

Author:

Editor: James A. Clendinning

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-28601-219  
ENCLOSURE



4-29-65

PLAINTEXT

1 - Mr. Hines

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO SACS BIRMINGHAM  
MOBILE

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. DASH VICTIMS. CR; E  
RE MOBILE TELETYPE TO BUREAU AND BIRMINGHAM APRIL TWENTY  
EIGHTH, ONE NINE SIX FIVE.

BIRMINGHAM REVIEW FILES RE INDIVIDUALS SUBPOENAED BY  
DEFENSE IN BIRMINGHAM DIVISION AND PREPARE MEMORANDUM SUITABLE  
FOR DISSEMINATION TO STATE AUTHORITIES, AS SET FORTH IN  
REFERENCED TELETYPE. FURNISH COPIES OF SUCH MEMORANDA PRE-  
PARED TO BUREAU.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

JWH:tpt  
3

Memo Rosen to Belmont 4/29/65

INITIALED  
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
APR 30 1965

TELETYPE

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

1 MAY 1965

This matter relates to murder of  
civil rights worker, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo,  
between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama,  
3-25-65. Case is being handled in State  
court.

Murphy is Klan attorney.

VL:hw

APR 26 1965

TELETYPE

1 MOBILE

5 PM DST URGENT

4/26/65

VFP

DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM AND MIAMI

DM MOBILE 44-1245/

Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

GENE THOMAS, ET AL, VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO-VICTIM CR EL.

PRELIMINARY HEARING IN HAYNEVILLE IN THIS CAPT. MATTER  
STATE COURT FOUR TWENTY SIX SIXTYFIVE RESULTING IN SEVERANCE  
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ARGES. MURPHY WAS AXIOUS TO PROCEED. INDICATED HE WOULD FILE A  
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ANNOUNCEMENT THAT OF SUBJECTS ARREST WAS PREJUDICED TO THEM AND  
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3 DAY TRIAL.

MAY 1 1965  
PAGE ONE

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

b7A  
b7C

255

6-11-65  
rd

# Memorandum

Mr. Rosen

DATE: April 30, 1965

FROM: C. L. McGowan

- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.  
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

With reference to the receipt of a subpoena by SAC Ingram to testify as a witness for the defendant Collie Wilkins in this matter, /0 / Departmental Attorney Robert Owen called to verify the fact that SAC Ingram had actually been served. I advised Owen that Ingram had been served with a subpoena yesterday afternoon by the Deputy Sheriff of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and that the subpoena called for him to appear at Wilkins' trial on Monday, 5/3/65. Owen inquired as to whether the subpoena stated a definite time for Ingram's appearance, and I advised him that it did not. It simply called for his appearance on 5/3/65.

Owen stated that the matter is still under discussion at the Department, that he has been in conference with Assistant Attorney General Doar concerning the matter and that a final decision had not yet been reached. Owen indicated that the Department's present feeling in the matter is that they will file a motion to quash the subpoena on the basis that Ingram, from personal knowledge, cannot testify to information pertinent to the trial.

Owen stated that as soon as a definite decision is reached // he will advise us.

REC-99

EX-105

MAY 3 1965

6 JCK/cac  
(5) MAY 10 1965



I MOBILE

MAY 2 1965

8 PM CST 5/2/65 URGENT CCM TELETYPE

DIRECTOR (44-28601) AND BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

FROM MOBILE (44-1245) 2 PAGES

IGENE THOMAS; ET AL. MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA ET AL  
CTIMS; ER - EL

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

ON EVENING OF MAY FIRST LAST AND MAY SECOND

GROVE HILL, ALA. ADVISED THAT ON MAY FIRST

ST KLAN HELD MEETING AT BLADON SPRINGS, ALA. BETWEEN  
10 HUNDRED AND THREE HUNDRED PERSONS ATTENDED MEETING.  
DUNAGAN, COFFEEVILLE, ALA. IN CHARGE OF MEETING WHICH  
WAS HELD IN STATE PARK. DUNAGAN INTRODUCED A MR. CREEL,  
GRAND DRAGON OF KLAN FROM BESSEMER, ALA. CREEL LATER  
INTRODUCED THREE MEN WHO WERE IDENTIFIED AS MEN CHARGED  
WITH MURDER OF VICTIM LIUZZO. HOLLIS CURL, EDITOR, CHOCTAW  
ADVOCATE, A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED AT BUTLER, ALA.,  
ADVISED ROBERT CREEL, GRAND DRAGON, OF KKK FROM  
BIRMINGHAM, ALA. ATTENDED KLAN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF  
KLAN AT BLADEN SPRINGS, ALA. CREEL SPOKE AT MEETING AND  
INTRODUCED THREE MEN WHO WERE IDENTIFIED AS BEING PERSONS  
WHO WERE ARRESTED FOR MURDER OF VICTIM LIUZZO. CURL STATES

APPROXIMATELY FIFTY PERSONS JOINED KLAN AT MEETING. BOTH

SHERIFF PAUL AND CURL ADVISED THAT SUBJECTS DID NOT SPEAK

50 MAY 10 1965

MR. DIRECTOR

END PAGE ONE

TFX. Freund



PAGE TWO

ED CAN NOT STATE IF FUNDS COLLECTED FOR SUBJECTS  
DEFENSE SINCE COLLECTION WAS MADE BUT THIS COLLECTION WAS  
BELIEVED TO BE FOR KLAN AND MONEY COLLECTED FROM NEW MEMBERS.  
OTH CURL AND PAUL STATE THREE SUBJECTS INTRODUCED TO CROWD  
( CREEL <sup>IN</sup>QUOTE DO THESE MEN LOOK LIKE MURDERS? <sup>UNQUOTE</sup>UNQUOTE.

ED

BJH

MI WASH DC

P

DPR

STILL WIL NOT ACK

IN PLS

MR ROSEN

APR 15 9 44 AM '68

APR 15 2 01 PM '68

1 8 1

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director of F. B. I.  
Washington D. C.

Corpus Christi Tex  
April 21, 1965

Dear Sir:

Please consider this a letter of protest at the actions of the F. B. I. in Alabama concerning the slaying of Mrs Viola Liuzzo. I don't condone murder for any reason whatsoever. But I believe that if this lady had been at home tending her duties as wife and mother, she would still be alive. You, yourself know what an insult Mrs Liuzzo made to the people of Ala., cavorting around with a Negro Buck after dark in their state. Now we come to Mr Gary T. Rowe F. B. I. Agent who incites to violence and then helps murder, But gets away with it because he is protected by his rights with the F. B. I. I think Mr. Rowe is as guilty as the other three men and should receive the same sentence as the other three men. Mr Hoover if you cannot keep the F. B. I. from being used as a political pawn you should resign and let Lyndon B. (Baines or Beans) Johnson give your job to Martin Luther (after all he is a peaceful man? he recieved the Nobel Peace Award?) Until recently the F. B. I. has been an efficient, honest and well behaved law enforcement agency lets get it back that way and keep out the scandals.

Thanks for listening

Corpus Christi Tex

P.S. I have written my Senator, Congressman and the President my views

AEH

COPY:nm

ENCLOSURE

REC-99  
ST-117

44-2001-259  
6 MAY 3 1965

RECORDED  
MAY 4 1965

MAY 10 1965

Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director of F.B.I.  
Washington D.C.

Corpus Christi  
April 21, 1965

Dear Sir:

Please consider this a letter of protest at the actions of the F.B.I. in Alabama concerning the slaying of Mrs Viola Sizze. I don't condone murder for any reason whatsoever. But I believe that if this lady had been at home taking her duties as wife and mother, she would still be alive. You, yourself know what an insult Mrs Sizze made to the people of Ala. carrying around with a Negro Buck after dark in their state.

Now we come to Mr Gary T. Rowe F.B.I. agent who incites to violence and then helps murder, but gets away with it because

ENCLOSURE (trans of recording)

CORRESPONDENCE

he is protected by his  
rights with the F.B.I.  
I think Mr Power is as  
guilty as the other three  
men and should receive the  
same sentence as the other  
three men. Mr Hoover if you  
cannot keep the F.B.I. from  
being used as a political  
punch you should resign  
and let Lyndon B. <sup>Baines</sup> ~~Baines~~ Johnson  
give you job to Martin Luther  
King after all he is a peaceful man  
he received the Nobel Peace Award?  
Until recently the F.B.I. has  
been an efficient, honest and well  
behaved law enforcement agency  
lets get it back that way  
and keep out the scandals,

Thank you for listening  
b7C

P.S. I have written  
my letter to Congress  
and the President my  
views are

Corpus Christi Tex

Please Read

# Man Accused in Liuzzo Death Apparently Spy for FBI

By FRED P. GRAHAM

© New York Times News Service

HAYNESVILLE, Ala. — Gary T. Rowe, one of the four men originally accused by federal officers in the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, emerged today as an apparent undercover agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Rowe, 34, testified for about 10 hours yesterday afternoon

before a Lowndes County grand jury which is investigating the killing of the Detroit civil rights worker on March 25.

The grand jury is expected to report its decision today.

Under elaborate cloak-and-dagger security measures by the FBI, Rowe slipped into the grand jury room in the Lowndes County courthouse at 7 p.m.

Two hours later, reporters

spotted him as he and two FBI special agents dashed for the back door of the courthouse.

An FBI man blocked the door as the sunburned, red-haired Birmingham man sped away in the back seat of a light green car, accompanied by two FBI men.

Rowe was said to have worn what appeared to be a .38-caliber revolver in a hip holster as he

entered the grand jury room, and was seen wearing it as he climbed into the car.

It was later learned from reliable sources here that Rowe has been a paid informant of the FBI for the past six years.

It was reported that Rowe said he had been paid by the FBI since 1959 for reporting on Ku Klux Klan activities.

On March 26, Rowe and Eu-

gene Thomas, 43, and William D. Eaton, 41, both of Bessemer, Ala., and Collie Le Roy Wilkins Jr., 21, of Fairfield, Ala., were arrested by FBI agents and charged with conspiring to violate Mrs. Liuzzo's civil rights in the killing. Since murder is not a federal crime, this was the only charge that could be placed against the men.

Last week, when a federal

grand jury indicted the other three men but did not indict Rowe, reports began to circulate that he was an undercover informant. Federal charges against Rowe were dropped and he was freed.

It is reported that Rowe telephoned the FBI before he left for Selma the night of the killing, and that he called them after he returned to Birmingham.

Indications are that Rowe was in the assailants' car when Mrs. Liuzzo was killed, but could not prevent the shooting.

Rowe's testimony was not disclosed.

After President Johnson announced the arrests in a telecast on March 26, it had been speculated that FBI agents had been able to make such speedy

See FBI, Page 1

44-25601-259

ENCLOSURE



Continued from Page 1

arrests because cars of all known Ku Klux Klansmen in the area had been under surveillance.

The state grand jury of 18 white men heard evidence on the Liuzzo case during the entire day yesterday.

Testimony was also given by Leroy Moton, 19, the Negro civil rights worker for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference who was in the car with Mrs. Liuzzo when she was shot.

FBI agents were conspicuous for their absence during the morning, as state and county prosecutors apparently hoped to make a case without associating the federal government with the charges against the accused persons.

The first indication that Rowe might be an informant came when he was unexplainedly brought to the federal arraignment by FBI agents three hours after the other three defendants had arrived.

# The Corpus Christi Times

Published every week-day afternoon  
by the Call-Times Publishing Co.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1965

Second class postage  
Corpus Christi, Texas

# Memorandum

Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 4-29-65

FROM : D. C. Morrell

SUBJECT: MR. [REDACTED]  
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

DeLoach  
Cooper  
Callahan  
Conrad  
Felt  
Gale  
Rosen  
Sullivan  
Tavel  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holmes  
Gandy

By letter dated 4-21-65 captioned individual advised the purpose of his letter was to protest the activities of the FBI in connection with the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo. Thereafter, he sets forth obvious bigoted views and refers to a newspaper article which clearly labels Gary T. Rowe as a paid informant of the FBI and then deliberately assigns the role to Rowe as an FBI Agent. [REDACTED] urges Mr. Hoover to prevent President Lyndon "Beans" Johnson from using the FBI and to appoint Martin Luther (King) as director since he received the Nobel Peace Award. He claims the FBI until recently had been efficient and well behaved and urges that we return to these precepts and avoid scandal. He mentions he has written his senator, congressman and the President concerning his views.

## BUFILES:

There is no information identifiable with Mr. [REDACTED] in Bufiles.

## OBSERVATIONS:

[REDACTED] has fallen in the same problem many individuals have in understanding the relationship of an informant to the Bureau. However, it would appear his bigoted views would prevent us from advising him of the Bureau's position in this case and therefore, no purpose would be served by acknowledging his communication.

## RECOMMENDATION:

That his letter not be acknowledged.

EX-110 REC-99

44-28601-260  
5 MAY 3 1965

1 - Mr. DeLoach

DTP:djg

(4)

56 MAY 10 1965

XEROX  
1965

# Klansman Released in Liuzzo Slaying Apparently Worked Secretly for FBI

By Jack Nelson  
Los Angeles Times

DAYNEVILLE, Ala., April 24—A Ku Klux Klansman who apparently witnessed the slaying of Viola Liuzzo of Detroit while he was working undercover for the FBI, testified before the Lowndes County grand jury today.

Henry T. Rowe Jr., 34, brought to court under a heavy FBI guard, testified for two hours before the jury, and then was whisked out of the County by agents who used force to keep a reporter from trying to interview him.

Rowe was armed with a pistol in a holster.

He and three other Klansmen were arrested in the March 25 killing and booked on Federal charges of violating Mrs. Liuzzo's civil rights. But the Justice Department later dropped the charges against Rowe. It has declined to say why.

Eugene Thomas, 42, Fairfield steelworker; William O. Atton, 41, a former steelworker from Bessemer, and Willie Leroy Wilkins Jr., 21, an airfield auto mechanic, are each under \$50,000 bond each on the Federal charges.

Mrs. Liuzzo, a white civil rights demonstrator, was killed by bullets fired from a

passing car as she drove from Selma to Montgomery a few hours after the March 25 march to the State Capitol.

With her was a 19-year-old Negro, Leroy Moton, who works for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Moton, who escaped injury, also testified before the jury today.

The arrest of the Klansmen was announced the day after the slaying. Rowe's role as an undercover informant apparently accounted for the speed. He reportedly called the FBI within four hours as soon as he could slip away.

Rowe reportedly told the FBI he was sitting in the back seat of the car from which the

bullets were fired. A reliable source said Rowe contended the shooting happened quickly and on the spur of the moment and he was helpless to interfere.

Rowe has been supplying the FBI with information on Klan activities since 1960, according to the source.

Rowe and the three defendants were listed as members of the United Klans of America, the Nation's largest Klan with an estimated membership of 5000.

As Rowe emerged from the jury room today, a reporter tried to follow him but was shouldered to the wall by an FBI agent. The reporter continued down the hallway but another agent blocked the exit.

MONI \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*[Handwritten signature]*

The Washington Post and Times Herald *A-3*  
The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Post \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
The Baltimore Sun \_\_\_\_\_  
The Worker \_\_\_\_\_  
The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
Date *4/21/65*

*114-105-265*

ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
**Memorandum**

DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/28/65

SAC, TAMPA (170-150)

SUBJECT: *W* DOROTHY M. *X* ROWE  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

*GARY T. ROWE*

In connection with the divorced husband of the captioned individual, there are transmitted herewith the following newspaper articles concerning the divorced husband of captioned individual, which I thought might be of interest to the Bureau:

"KKK Men: 'Harassed and Innocent'," 4/23/65 edition,  
"St. Petersburg Independent," St. Petersburg, Florida;

"Man Arrested in Alabama Killing Proves FBI Agent,"  
4/21/65 edition, "Clearwater Sun," Clearwater, Florida;

"Liuzzo Case 'Suspect' Apparently FBI Agent," 4/21/65  
edition, "The St. Petersburg Times," St. Petersburg,  
Florida;

"Jury Findings Due on Liuzzo Slaying," 4/22/65 edition,  
"St. Petersburg Independent," St. Petersburg, Florida;

"FBI Undercover Agent?," 4/23/65 edition "The St. Petersburg  
Times," St. Petersburg, Florida;

"3 Klansmen Indicted in Woman's Slaying," 4/23/65 edition  
"St. Petersburg Times," St. Petersburg, Florida;

"FBI Informer No Surprise to Klan," 4/22/65 edition,  
"The Clearwater Sun," Clearwater, Florida, by TOM CHASE;

"Alabama Grand Jury Readies Report on Night Rider Slaying,"  
4/22/65 edition, "Clearwater Sun," Clearwater, Florida.

2 - Bureau (Encs. 8) (RM) REC-25  
1 - Tampa  
JFS:jn  
(3)

44-28601-271

5-4  
APR 30 1965

EX-112

F-113

INT. SEC.

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

# KKK Men: 'Harassed And Innocent'

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Three Ku Klansmen were free on \$10,000 each in Birmingham, Ala., today on trial on first degree murder charges in the ambush death of a De-mother who marched for civil

three said they were innocent and had been subject to almost continuous harassment by telephone calls and in recent weeks.

their attorney, Matt H. Murphy Jr., charged President Johnson for his role in connection with the arrest of members. Murphy said he would to subpoena the President "if I hope to represent these men."

There were these other developments on the racial scene:

—Tear gas and smoke bombs were used by police to stop a demonstration by more than 300 Negroes in the west Alabama city of Demopolis. Five demonstrators were arrested. Fourteen persons were treated for tear gas burns at a hospital.

—The Senate began debate on the voting rights bill in Washington. Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee which sent the bill to the floor said the nation must have "new, strong legislation to protect voting rights." Twelve Southern senators organized forces to oppose the measure.

—Civil rights movement officials said

their organizations planned quieter campaigns in Mississippi this summer because the state has experienced marked changes. The appraisals were made at a meeting of the Mississippi Council on Human Relations in Jackson.

—Paul Beliesen, the missing Nampa, Idaho, Negro who briefly held membership in the Ku Klux Klan last February, has turned up in San Francisco and apparently dropped from sight again.

—Some 300 University of Mississippi students demonstrated last night outside a campus dormitory where several Negroes — here for the Southern Literary Festival — were staying. Campus police reportedly had the demonstrators under control shortly after midnight.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

16 B St. Petersburg  
Independent  
St. Petersburg,

Date: 4/23/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Del Marth

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-28661-2

ENCLOSURE



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Man Arrested In Alabama Killing Proves FBI Agent

NEW YORK (AP) — Gary T. Rowe, one of the four men fully arrested by federal agents in the slaying of Mrs. Liuzzo in Alabama, has been identified as an undercover agent for the FBI, the New York Times said today.

Mr. Rowe, 34, of Birmingham, was arrested yesterday at Hayneville, Ala., before the Lowndes County grand jury investigating the shooting of Mrs. Liuzzo, a 41-year-old Detroit mother. The government later dropped charges against Rowe and he was freed.

Mrs. Liuzzo was slain in a shooting shortly after she participated in the March 25 Selma to Montgomery civil rights march. The Times said in a dispatch from Hayneville that although the details of Rowe's story are not known, the circumstances indicate he was in the assailants' car when Mrs. Liuzzo was killed, but could not prevent the shooting.

The three other men taken into custody the same day Rowe was arrested — March 26 — have been indicted in Montgomery on federal charges of conspiring to violate the constitutional rights of demonstrators. President Johnson, in announcing their arrests, described them as members of the Ku Klux Klan.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

11b Clearwater Sun  
Clearwater, Fla

Date: 4/21/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: James L. Deards

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-28601  
ENCLOSURE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Liuzzo Case 'Suspect' Apparently FBI Agent

Special To The Times  
From The New York Times

DAYNESVILLE, Ala. — Gary Rowe, one of the four men finally accused by federal officers in the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, emerged yesterday as an apparent undercover agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Rowe testified for about two hours yesterday afternoon before a Grand Jury which is investigating the slaying of the Detroit civil rights worker on March 25.

The Grand Jury is expected to report its decision before noon today.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

11a The St. Petersburg  
Times  
St. Petersburg, Fla.

Date: 4/21/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Courtland Anderson

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-38661

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Fury Findings Due On Liuzzo Slaying

LYNEVILLE, Ala. (AP) — A Grand jury reports its findings today in the investigation of the night rider slaying of 39-year-old white civil rights worker

Lowndes County jury of 18 white men completed its investigation yesterday in the ambush slaying of Mrs. Liuzzo of Detroit and of several other cases. It reportedly returned indictments, but their nature will not be known until after the formal reading and until those indicted have been taken into custody.

Meanwhile, the president of the Bogalusa, La., Civic and Voters League, who claims it speaks for the town's Negroes — was arrested on a charge of passing a worthless \$15 check.

Meanwhile polls and petitions fanned throughout the Negro community seeking to pin down who represents the

city's 9,000 Negroes in biracial talks, negotiations and demands for civil rights.

Mayor Jesse Cutrer said the league and members of the Congress of Racial Equality "are a small group of self-styled leaders who do not represent the Negro community." He said they "do not want to negotiate. They want to demonstrate."

In Nampa, Idaho, the Negro who served a one-day term as Grand Titan of the Idaho Ku Klux Klan in February was reported missing. His wife, Mrs. Emmaline Bellesen, told Nampa police her husband, Paul Bellesen, left home in the family car and had not returned.

Later, one of Bellesen's former employees in a janitor service, told police he saw Bellesen in San Francisco International Airport. He said Bellesen told him, "I'm just sort of taking a vacation and I don't want anybody to know you saw me."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

20b St. Petersburg  
Independent  
St. Petersburg

Date: 4/22/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Del Marth

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-38861-2115

# FBI Undercover Agent?

## ANALYSIS

INGTON (AP) — Money. ic duty. A favor in court. are the persuasions the es with Ku Klux Klans- Communists and gang- hen it needs information a come only from the in-

m — and usually only for : jobs — do FBI agents lves become members of in, the party, or the syn-

uently — and not only for : jobs but often for years inuing information — in- ls already in the organ- : are tapped.

ETIMES — and this is difficult — individuals on ges or totally outside. he Klan, are contacted ged to join up and start ng out information.

ty Thomas Rowe was, as en reported, the tipster i the FBI to the alleged of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in ia, he did so as a Klans- nd not as a member of I.

term "undercover

agent," which has been applied to Rowe and others, can be confusing.

It sometimes means a trained FBI agent who conceals his identity and pretends to be something else.

But the term also is loosely applied to informers — men and women who are not in the FBI but who, for some inducement, regularly supply information to the government men.

FBI DIRECTOR J. Edgar Hoover has often said the bureau has the Klan virtually wired for sound with informants.

"At times," Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach quipped recently, "I think we know more about what the Klan is doing than we know about what some divisions in the Justice Department are doing."

The FBI refused to discuss any aspect of the Liuzzo case and issued a terse "no com-

ment" when asked about a New York Times report that Rowe had been its undercover man in the case.

It is commonly known, however, that the FBI will pay for information, strictly on a cash-on-delivery basis. One Justice Department source says as much as \$5,000 or \$10,000 may be paid for a particularly important piece of information.

But in the day-to-day routine of law enforcement, it's more likely that the payment will only cover a man's expenses or give him a little extra pocket money.

THE AMOUNT SPENT BY Hoover's men for information each year does not appear in the FBI appropriation chart. But experts describe it as "pretty small potatoes."

Money is not the only inducement offered by FBI men seeking information. Much has been gained from a private, discreet discussion of a man's duty to his country and the need for law and order.

And while the FBI won't talk

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

15 The St. Peteess  
Times  
St. Petersburg

Date: 4/23/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Courtland And

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-28401 2713  
ENCLOSURE





**GARY THOMAS ROWE**

... reported tipster.

about it, a potential informant may often be brought around with the oblique reminder that he may, one day, desire leniency for crimes in which he has become involved.

The Times report said that although the details of Rowe's story are now known, the circumstances indicate he was in the assailants' car when Mrs. Liuzzo was killed, but could not prevent the shooting. Three men who were with Rowe have been indicted on federal charges of conspiracy to violate the constitutional rights of civil rights demonstrators. Charges against Rowe were dropped and he was released, a free man.

44-31601-

**ENCLOSURE**

# Klansmen Indicted Woman's Slaying

Analysis, 15-A.

NEVILLE, Ala. (UPI) — Alabama Grand Jury yesterday indicted three Ku Klux men for the March 25 slaying of Detroit civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo. The three were arrested in Birmingham and released free on bonds of \$10,000 each. The trial was set for May 3 in Hayneville.

THREE OF THE murder warriors were Collie Leroy Wilkins, 31, and Eugene Thomas, 34, both of Fairfield, and Wilbur L. Eaton, 41, of Bessemer.

The three were taken into custody by Haynes County Sheriff Ryals and taken to Jefferson County Jail in Birmingham for bonding.

After posting the bonds, they were released from the jailhouse grinning.

The bonds were set by U.S. Circuit Court Judge T.

Werth Thagard and approved by Jefferson County Sheriff Mel Bailey.

THE BONDS were posted by their attorney, Matt H. Murphy Jr. who filed with Bailey a writ of habeas corpus demanding charges against the three men be dismissed. Bailey said he would forward the writ to Thagard.

The judge set an arraignment hearing for the three men at 10 a.m. EST Monday in his Hayneville court.

The Klansmen's attorney Murphy, held a news conference with his clients and Klan Grand Dragon Robert Shelton last night and announced he would subpoena President Johnson and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover for the trial.

Legal sources, however, said the president of the United States is immune from subpoena.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

16 A St. Petersburg Times  
St. Petersburg

Date: 4/23/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Courtland Anderson

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-28601-211

ENCLOSURE

# FBI Informer No Surprise To Klan

By TOM CHASE  
ANTA, Ga. (AP) — Top  
ix Klansmen say they are  
rprised by FBI claims the  
orders have been infil-  
but they say government  
should spend more time  
g Communists.

in Craig, Georgia grand  
of the United Klans of  
a, Knights of the Ku  
Klan, said the case of Gar-  
omas Rowe Jr. of Brim-  
n was nothing new.

's one of the men who  
been playing a dual role  
long," said Craig, 36,  
sday night.

was talking to Shelton  
that over the weekend,"  
d. "Shelton told me he has  
it for several years."

g referred to Robert M.  
n of Tuscaloosa, Ala., im-  
wizard of the United  
of America and, as such,  
all head of several state  
s. Shelton could not be  
ed for comment.

Reported Tipster  
e was reported to be the  
who provided the FBI  
information which resulted  
mp arrests in the slaying  
John Leezo, the Detroit  
r of five killed March 25  
the civil rights march  
Selma to Montgomery.

in federal and Alabama  
cities have declined com-  
on the Rowe report.  
tually," said Craig, "we  
that some of the crimes  
ed to the KKK have been  
by FBI informers to create  
le of hatred against the  
ization when true klans-  
were not involved."

suggested the House Un-  
ican Activities Committee  
tigate what he called the  
nistic element involved  
e Selma to Montgomery  
h rather than starting a  
of the KKK.

James R. Venable of Stone  
Mountain, Ga., imperial wizard  
of the National Knights of the  
Ku Klux Klan Inc., said the FBI  
ought to be using its agents "in  
the Communist field rather than  
trying to catch KKKs."

At the same time, Venable  
said, "there has never been any  
member of the KKK charged  
with selling any secrets of the  
U.S. government or with insur-  
rection nor has there been one  
who hesitated when asked to  
serve in the military."

Just to be on the safe side,  
Venable said, "we are setting  
traps for pimps and infiltrators.  
We are setting more traps than  
the FBI."

## Nothing To Hide

Asked if he knew of federal  
agents in his organizations, he  
said, "I don't know of any, but  
I'm sure we've got them. We  
have nothing secret to hide. Our  
tactics are to use the ballot box  
to win this race war."

Craig said he would welcome  
FBI agents to his organization  
"if they could qualify. But we  
don't want them coming in as  
druggists or mechanics or im-  
posters of any kind."

"E. McDaniel, grand dragon  
of the United Klans of America  
in Mississippi, declined com-  
ment about the FBI when  
reached at his home in Natchez.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover  
often has said the bureau has  
the klan virtually wired for  
sound with informants.

"At times I think we know  
more about what the Klan is  
doing than we know about what  
some divisions in the Justice  
Department are doing," Atty.  
Gen. Nicholas Katzenbach  
quipped recently in Washington.

(Indicate page, name of  
newspaper, city and state.)

6a The Clearwater St  
Clearwater, Fla.

Date: 4/22/65

Edition:

Author: Tom Chase

Editor: James L. Beardsley

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-28601 211

ENCLOSURE

# Alabama Grand Jury Readies Report On Night Rider Slaying

NEVILLE, Ala. — A grand jury reports its findings in the investigation of the slaying of a 39-year-old civil rights worker. Lowndes County jury of

the men completed its investigation yesterday into the slaying of Mrs. Viola

of Detroit and of several cases. It reportedly recommended some indictments, but the nature will not be known after the formal report and those indicted have been taken into custody.

Among those questioned by the jury was Gary Thomas Rowe

34-year-old Birmingham who was arrested by federal authorities after the Luzzo slaying but later released.

Rowe was one of four Ku Klux Klan members arrested on federal civil rights charges March 25 day after Mrs. Luzzo was shot to death in her car in Lowndesboro. A federal grand jury meeting in Montgomery earlier this month indicted the other three men on charges of conspiring to injure persons in the exercise of their constitutional rights.

Those indicted were Eugene Thomas, 42, an employee of U.S. Steel at Bessemer; Collie Leroy Thomas Jr., 21, of Fairfield, a self-employed mechanic; and Orville Eaton, 41, also of Bessemer, a retired steel worker.

Rowe was not indicted and the charges against him subsequently were dismissed. The New York Times said Rowe had been working as an undercover agent for federal authorities, including the FBI, and state officials refused to comment on the report.

Meanwhile, the president of the Bogalusa, La., Civic and League—which claims it is for the town's Negroes—

was arrested on a charge of issuing a worthless \$15 check.

A. Z. Young was accused in a warrant of signing a check dated April 10 issued to Ward's Repair Shop, a Bogalusa television store owned by a white man.

City Judge A. J. Jones signed the warrant and set an April 26 hearing. Young was released on \$500 bail.

In Nampa, Idaho, the Negro who served a one-day term as Grand Titan of the Idaho Ku Klux Klan in February was reported missing. His wife, Mrs. Emmaline Bellesen, told Nampa police her husband, Paul Bellesen, left home in the family

car and had not returned.

Later, one of Bellesen's former employees in a janitor service, Larry Brennan, told police he saw Bellesen in San Francisco International Airport. He said Bellesen told him, "I'm just sort of taking a vacation and I don't want anybody to know you saw me."

In Boston, civil rights leaders went ahead with plans for a massive parade and rally Friday with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as the chief speaker. The parade and rally are to protest racial imbalance in schools and sub-standard housing.

Mayor John F. Collins took issue with a statement by the Rev. Virgil Wood, head of the

Boston branch of King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference, that the marchers would demonstrate in front of city hall.

Wood said Selma officials didn't want demonstrations either, but they were held nevertheless. "Boston is no different from Selma," he said. "If

we choose to do it, we will do it."

Collins said that was unreasonable after the city had freely granted permits for the parade through the principal downtown business streets, plus the use of Parkman bandstand on Boston Common for the rally.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

6a Clearwater Sun  
Clearwater, Fla.

Date: 4/22/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: James L. Bea

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

☐ Being Investigated

44-28001-24



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 1 1965  
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

10-XZRPIC

I MOBILE

27

PM

URGENT

5-1-65

MMA

DIRECTOR /44-28601/

DM MOBILE /44-1245/

GENE THOMAS; ET AL; MRS VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA ET AL  
CIVIL RIGHTS Section Laws  
CTIMS; ~~CR~~ - ~~EL~~ .

BIRMINGHAM POST HERALD, DAILY NEWSPAPER, UNDER DATE LINE  
FIRST, SIXTYFIVE, CARRIES THE FOLLOWING NEWS RELEASE:

MATT H. MURPHY, JR., ATTORNEY FOR THOMAS, WILKINS AND  
TON, SAID "THINGS ARE SHAPING UP FAVORABLY FOR OUR CASE  
D I MIGHT ASK FOR ALL THREE TO BE TRIED AT ONCE."

ORIGINALLY WAS GRANTED A REQUEST FOR SEPARATE TRIALS FOR  
E MEN.

CONTACTS WITH [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SELMA, DEVELOPED THAT STOKELY CARMICHAEL, FIELD  
Secret Non-Violent Co-ordinating Committee  
CRETARY, ~~SNCC~~, WAS HANDLING RACIAL ACTIVITIES IN LOWNDES  
ALABAMA  
UNTY, ALA. THEY ADVISED THAT CARMICHAEL IS PRESENTING  
Secret Non-Violent Co-ordinating Committee  
TH SILAS NORMAN, AREA COORDINATOR, ~~SNCC~~, IN ATLANTA, BUT  
EXPECTED TO RETURN TO THE SELMA AREA MOMENTARILY.

MAY 1 1965  
PAGE ONE

MR. BELMONT FOR DIRECTOR

Mrs. Runt Belmont  
5/3/65  
JWH:mrh

6-117

GE TWO

BY BOTH ADVISED ON CONTACT THEY KNOW OF NO PLANNED  
MONSTRATION FOR MAY THREE, <sup>3, 1965</sup> ~~SEVEN~~ AT HAYNEVILLE, <sup>ALABAMA</sup> ~~ALA.~~,  
I WILL DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH NORMAN AND CARMICHAEL  
ON THEIR RETURN TO SELMA AND HAVE THEM IMMEDIATELY  
CONTACT THE FBI IF THERE IS ANY SUCH DEMONSTRATION PLANNED.

DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEYS GEORGE RAYBORN AND JAMES TURNER  
SCENE AT SELMA AND MONTGOMERY, <sup>ALABAMA</sup> ~~ALA.~~, BEING ADVISED.

D

BJH

I WASH DC -

IU

C-MR. ROSEN

MAY 4 1965

**TELETYPE**

31 WASH DC

VI BIRMINGHAM

147 PM CST URGENT 5-3-65 GDM

**DIRECTOR**

OM BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

GENE THOMAS, ET AL. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL VICTIMS. CR.

SAC INGRAM, BIRMINGHAM, APPEARED IN CIRCUIT COURT, HAYNEVILLE, A., TODAY IN RESPONSE TO SUBPOENA RE: TRIAL CAPTIONED MATTER.

**AIR MAIL COPY TO MOBILE.**

ACK FOR TWO

INFORMED 7 1965

**WASH DC**

8 MAY 4 1965

EX 109

cc - Hines

Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

FBI

Date:

4/30/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plain text or code)

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI 44-28601

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL  
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; ET AL - VICTIMS  
CR; EL

Transmitted herewith for the information and assistance of the Bureau are two copies of a photograph which appeared in "The Tuscaloosa News" at Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

One copy of the same newspaper photograph showing MATT MURPHY, the three subjects and ROBERT SHELTON at a Klan rally is forwarded herewith to Mobile.

2 ENCLOSURES  
3 Bureau (enc-2)  
2 Mobile (enc-1)  
1 Birmingham

RGJ:fc  
(6)

EX 110

REC-23

44-28601-278

21 MAY 4 1965

C. J. WALKER

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

39 MAY 11 1965 Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

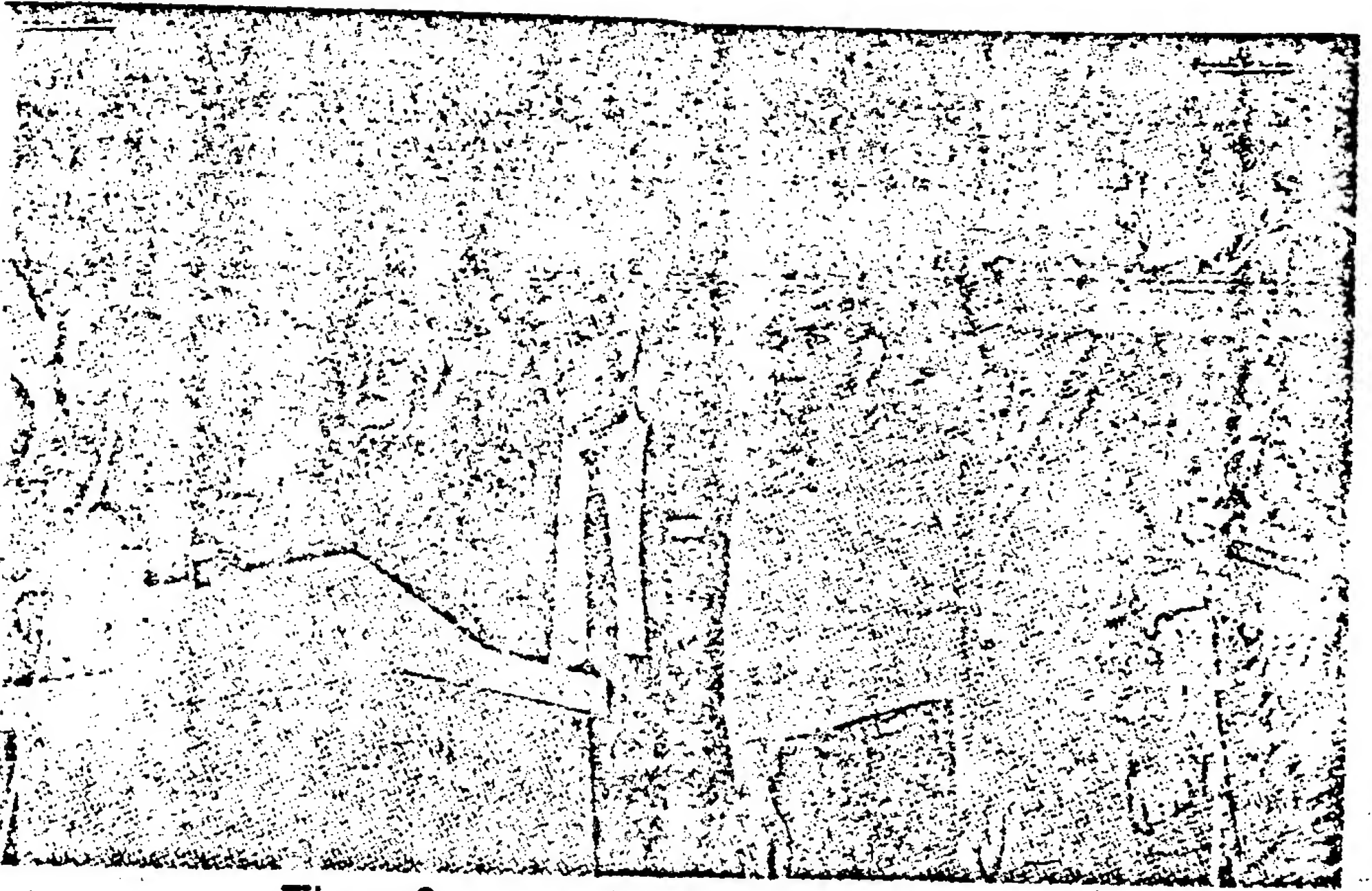
Per \_\_\_\_\_





### Three Suspects At Klan Rally Here

The three men indicted in connection with the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo were introduced at a Ku Klux Klan rally in Tuscaloosa last Saturday night. Shown above, flanked by Imperial Wizard Robert Shelton (right) and Klan attorney Matt Murphy (left) are (from the left): Eugene Thomas, Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., and William Orville Eaton.



### Three Suspects At Klan Rally Here

The three men indicted in connection with the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo were introduced at a Ku Klux Klan rally in Tuscaloosa last Saturday night. Shown above, flanked by Imperial Wizard Robert Shelton (right) and Klan attorney Matt Murphy (left) are (from the left): Eugene Thomas, Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., and William Orville Eaton.

## Memorandum

Mr. Belmont

DATE: April 30, 1965

FROM :

J. Rosen

SUBJECT :

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;  
 VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. -  
 VICTIMS  
 CIVIL RIGHTS

1 - Mr. Mohr  
 1 - Mr. DeLoach  
 1 - Mr. Belmont  
 1 - Mr. Rosen  
 1 - Mr. Malley  
 1 - Mr. McGowan  
 1 - Mr. Hines

Belmont  
 Mohr  
 DeLoach  
 Casper  
 Callahan  
 Conrad  
 Felt  
 Gale  
 Rosen  
 Sullivan  
 Tavel  
 Trotter  
 Tele. Room  
 Holmes  
 Gandy

On the afternoon of 4/29/65, SAC Ingram of the Birmingham Office was served with a subpoena to appear for the defense at the trial of Collie Wilkins on 5/3/65. Wilkins is charged with the murder of Viola Liuzzo. The subpoena is for Ingram's personal appearance and it is not requested that he bring any records.

The receipt of the subpoena by SAC Ingram was discussed with Mr. Robert Owen of the Civil Rights Division on 4/29/65. Owen advised that the Department would take the matter under consideration and would take action with regard to the subpoena.

On 4/30/65, Mr. Owen of the Department advised that he had taken the matter of the subpoena of SAC Ingram up with Assistant Attorney General Doar and with attorneys of the Civil Division of the Department and it was the opinion of the Department that there was no basis for filing a motion to quash the subpoena.

Owen advised that the Attorney General has directed a telegram to SAC Ingram advising him that he should appear in answer to the subpoena and testify. It states that Ingram cannot testify to anything contained in the records or files of the Bureau and the Department of Justice pursuant to Order of the Attorney General number 324-64 dated 10/8/64. His testimony is to be limited only to matters of personal knowledge that are relevant to the issue of the trial.

Mr. Owen is furnishing a copy of the Attorney General's telegram and he stated that an attorney from the Civil Division of the Department who is experienced in handling matters of subpoena is proceeding to Hayneville, Alabama, and will be present to protect the Government interest when SAC Ingram is called to testify.

JWH/nkr  
 (8)

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

REC-28

25 MAY 5 1965

CONTINUED - OV

XEROX

MAY 17 1965



Memorandum to Mr. Belmont  
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;

SAC Ingram has advised that he has not been in direct contact with any of the defendants, has not participated in any of the interviews or searches and that there is actually nothing that he can testify to from his personal knowledge.

ACTION:

SAC Ingram will be instructed to answer the subpoena and testify in accordance with the Attorney General's telegram. He is also being advised that an attorney from the Civil Division of the Department will be present to protect the Government's interest when he is called to testify.

Done  
6/5/41

*[Handwritten signatures and initials: "Gus", "R", "J. H. M.", "B. J.", "V. K. R.", "b"]*



# United States Senate

Washington, D. C., April 29, 1965

*Respectfully referred to*

Director J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

|| For your information.



Frank J. Lausche

U.S.S.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-65280-0

165  
Shred / dH  
ENCLOSURE ATTACHED  
ENCLOSURE

2005  
Sch

7/10/10  
m100

REC-50

44-28601-28

21 APR 30 1965

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

38 APR 30 1965

COPY

April 29, 1965

Mr. [REDACTED] b7c

Columbus, Ohio

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Senator Lausche has discussed with me and requested that I acknowledge your letter of recent date in which you expressed your views concerning the FBI and the death of Mrs. Luizzo in Selma, Alabama.

The Senator appreciates receiving the benefit of your views and will bring your letter to the attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Please be assured that your letter was welcome.

Sincerely yours,

Ray M. White  
Administrative Assistant to  
Senator Frank J. Lausche

RMW:mt

44-28601-287

ENCLOSURE

Dear Senator Lausche,

There is something terribly wrong with an FBI man sitting in a car and letting other men kill anyone. I can see no element of justification-even the protection of his own life if by any chance it was in fact in danger.

This disclosure makes the President's speech on Friday evening following the incident most difficult to understand.

Also why is the FBI man not guilty of something?

It reminds one of the 38 New Yorkers who stood by during a murder-and offering no help.

This is a most horrible

have happened, even if she was a nosy woman perhaps not where she belonged.

More than the usual news coverage should be undertaken in this case-the FBI claims its duty is only investigative. Was this man just investigative? Hardly.

[REDACTED] b7C

REC-50

EX 109

May 4, 1965

44-28601-287

Honorable Frank J. Lausche  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

My dear Senator:

Your note of April 29th, with enclosures, has been received, and I appreciate your bringing this to my attention.

Although I would like to be of service to your constituent, I am not in a position to comment in any manner as he has suggested inasmuch as one of the individuals involved in the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo went on trial May 3rd and prosecution of the others is to follow. I can assure you, however, that the person referred to was not a Special Agent of the FBI, and I trust your constituent will understand why it is not within our prerogative to comment on this case.

Sincerely yours,

- COMM-FBI  
MAY 4 1965
- Mr. DeLoach - Enclosures (3)
  - Mr. Rosen - Enclosures (3)

NOTE: Constituent [redacted] has no record in Bufiles. The enclosures were a copy of [redacted] letter to Senator Lausche and a copy of his answer to [redacted] over the signature of his Administrative Assistant Ray M. White. The individual to whom [redacted] refers is Gary Thomas Rowe, and informant who was present during the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo, a civil rights worker in Alabama. This response was discussed with the Civil Rights Section of the General Investigative Division. We have had cordial relations with Senator Lausche.

KLS:dll (7)

MAY 2 2 51 PM '65

REC-50

qum

MAY 12 1965

TELETYPE UNIT

DECODED COPY

☐ AIRGRAM ☐ CABLEGRAM ☐ RADIO ☒ TELETYPE

12:30 PM EST URGENT 4-26-65 AJG

TO DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM, TAMPA AND MIAMI  
FROM SAVANNAH 261639

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL, VIOLA LIUZZO; ET AL-VICTIMS  
CR; EL.

CIVIL RIGHTS ELECTION

ON APRIL 25 LAST [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT ON [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SOUTH CAROLINA, GRAND DRAGON BOB SCOGGINS EXHIBITED THE PHOTOGRAPH OF ROWE, FBI INFORMANT IN THE SELMA, ALABAMA, MURDER AND INSTRUCTED ALL GRAND OFFICERS, EXALTED CYCLOPS AND TITANS AND INVESTIGATORS OF THE KLAN TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR HIM. IF THIS INDIVIDUAL IS LOCATED THE GRAND DRAGON IS TO BE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED OF HIS WHEREABOUTS.

INFORMANT ADVISED THAT THIS MEANT THAT "THE GUN IS OUT FOR HIM" AS AN "FBI FINK" AND THAT HE WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF FOR "LYING." HE ALSO ADVISED THAT THE KLAN IS TRYING TO LOCATE FAMILY OF ROWE, HOWEVER, HE DID NOT KNOW WHY THEY WANTED HIS FAMILY BUT PROBABLY WANTED TO HARASS THEM TO FIND OUT WHERE ROWE IS LOCATED. ALL SOUTHERN OFFICES ADVISED BY LHM. LETTER HEAD MEMORANDUM.

RECEIVED: 1:47 PM LRC

REC-39

EX 110

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

CC-MR. ROSEN

69 MAY 11 1965

25 MAY 5 1965

[The intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.]



rights worker, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, between  
Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, on 3/25/65.

Birmingham has additionally advised that  
SAC Ingram appeared in Circuit Court,  
Hayneville, 5/3/65, in response to defense  
subpoena. Prior to appearance, SAC Ingram  
conferred with Departmental attorney who  
furnished SAC with letter from Attorney  
General outlining the scope and conditions of  
any testimony to be given by SAC. As entire  
day spent hearing motions and selecting jury,  
SAC not called as witness. When court  
adjourned, defense counsel advised not  
necessary for SAC Ingram to appear in court  
until morning of 5/6/65.

EA:pah



SI WASH DC

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 3 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

SI MOBILE

12 PM CST URGENT

5/3/65

VFP

1 DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE /44-1245/

IGENE THOMAS, ETAL; MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL-VICTIM.

El.  
Election Laws

TRIAL IN CAPTIONED MATTER AGAINST SUBJECT COLLIE WILKINS  
BEGAN MAY THREE, INSTANT, AT HAYNEVILLE, ALA. TWO MOTIONS  
WERE FILED BY DEFENSE COUNSEL MATT MURPHY AND WERE RULED ON  
BY COURT, THE FIRST CONTESTING THE JUSTICE OF THE COURT  
BECAUSE OF PUBLICITY ATTENDANT TO ANNOUNCEMENT ON SUBJECTS  
ARREST BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON WAS DENIED. A SECOND MOTION TO  
INTERVIEW STATE WITNESSES GARY THOMAS ROWE AND LEROY MOTON  
WAS GRANTED.

MURPHY TALKED TO BOTH ROWE AND MOTON. HE WAS ASSISTED  
BY RALPH ROTON, THE PUBLIC RELATIONS MAN IN ALABAMA FOR THE  
UNITED KLANS. ROTON HANDLED TAPE RECORDING EQUIPMENT. THE  
RESULTS OF ROWE'S INTERVIEW HAVE BEEN FURNISHED IN SEPARATE  
PAGE ONE .....

RC MAY 10 1965

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

REC-35

44-2861-28

MAY 5 1965

6-11

PAGE TWO ...

TELETYPE. RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH MOTON ARE NOT KNOWN.

THE BALANCE OF THE DAY WAS SPENT IN SELECTING JURORS  
FROM JURY PANEL. COURT ADJOURNED AT FOUR FIFTY PM AT WHICH  
TIME A JURY HAD BEEN SELECTED AND TRIAL IS SCHEDULED TO PROCEED  
AT NINE AM MAY FOUR, NEXT.

DISSEMINATION OF LETTERHEAD MEMORANDA CONCERNING DEFENSE  
MATTERS  
HAS BEEN FORWARDED WITH BIRMINGHAM AIRTELS APRIL TWENTYNINE  
AND THIRTY, LAST, TO CIRCUIT SOLICITOR ARTHUR GAMBLE HAS BEEN  
COMPLETED.

ID

RPP

MI WASH DC

MR. ROSEN

# Memorandum

Mr. Belmont

DATE: April 29, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.  
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS

1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

With the forthcoming trial in state court of subject Collie LeRoy Wilkins for the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo, which is scheduled to begin Monday, May 3, 1965, at Hayneville, Alabama, the question arises as to the desirability of an Agent being present in the courtroom during the proceedings.

It will be necessary that Agents be available to insure complete protection of our informant during the period that he is in Hayneville for the purpose of testifying. Following the completion of his testimony, he should depart from the area, and it should not be necessary for Agents to remain.

The state prosecutor has indicated to Inspector Joseph Sullivan that he desired to have as few "Federal Agents" as possible at the trial. It is realized that several FBI Agents will necessarily be used as witnesses by the prosecutor. Other FBI Agents may be necessary as rebuttal witnesses following the testimony given by the defense. It is also known that the Department plans to have an attorney at Hayneville during the trial.

## RECOMMENDATION

Since Inspector Sullivan will be in close touch with the state prosecutor and can follow the proceedings through him, and as the prosecutor has indicated that he does not desire "Federal Agents" around, it is recommended that we do not have an Agent sitting in the courtroom observing the proceedings. The presence of Agents if known would, of course, be the subject of considerable comment by Alabama news media.

CLM/cac  
(6)

REC 5

44-28601-290  
CONTINUED - OVER

8 MAY 5 '1965

EX 109

Memorandum to Mr Belmont  
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.

and would not in any way assist in the handling of the prosecution. Agents who will necessarily be present to afford protection for our informant and to appear as witnesses for the prosecution will be instructed to remove themselves from the courtroom and the area just as soon as they have finished their specific assignments.

*ch*  
*V.*  
*R*  
*JM*  
*Q*  
*S*  
*OK.*  
*Q*



5/3/65

PLAIN TEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

EX 109

REC 5

44-28601-290

1 - Mr. Hines

TO SAC MOBILE

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL ; MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL.  
DASH VICTIMS, CIVIL RIGHTS.

WITH REGARD TO THE TRIAL OF SUBJECT COLLIE LEROY  
WILKINS WHICH BEGAN IN STATE COURT, LOWNDES COUNTY,  
ALABAMA, THIS DATE, IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT IT WILL BE  
NECESSARY FOR AGENTS TO BE AVAILABLE TO INSURE COMPLETE  
PROTECTION OF OUR INFORMANT DURING THE PERIOD HE IS  
IN HAYNEVILLE, ALABAMA, AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF TESTIFYING  
HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE STATE PROSECUTOR'S DESIRE THAT AS  
FEW "FEDERAL AGENTS" AS POSSIBLE BE AT THE TRIAL, YOU  
MUST INSURE THAT AGENTS WHO WILL NECESSARILY BE PRESENT  
TO AFFORD PROTECTION FOR OUR INFORMANT AND TO APPEAR  
AS WITNESSES FOR THE PROSECUTION ARE INSTRUCTED TO REMOVE

JWH/nkr (3)

See Rosen to Belmont, 4/29/65, same caption, CLM/ca

MAY 11 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAY 3 1965

TELETYPE

TELETYPE TO SAC MOBILE  
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.

THEMSELVES FROM THE COURTROOM AND THE AREA JUST AS SOON  
AS THEY HAVE FINISHED THEIR SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS.

- 2 -

RECEIVED  
MAY 3 1965  
FBI  
MOBILE

LSK (K-3)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAY 3 1965

TELETYPE

## Memorandum

Mr. Belmont

DATE: May 4, 1965

TO : Mr. Rosen *Reh*SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.  
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. Callahan  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holmes  
Miss Gandy

Inspector Joseph Sullivan in Selma, Alabama, has telephonically advised that the Circuit Solicitor, Arthur Gamble, has requested a verification or documentation of payments which have been made to the informant (Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr.) over a period of years. According to Sullivan, the Solicitor desires to have some written record if possible to support testimony of Agents that payments had been made to this informant for a substantial period of time.

-- It should be noted that the Department had previously instructed SAC Ingram of the Birmingham Office that he was not to furnish any information whatsoever from the official files or records of the office in connection with his appearance at the trial.

ACTION TAKEN:

This matter is being taken up with the Civil Rights Division of the Department for a determination as to what action they desire be pursued concerning the request of the Circuit Solicitor to support the testimony of the Agents that payments have been made to this informant for a substantial period of time.

CLM/cac  
(9)

REC-26

ST-108

18 MAY 6 1965

79 MAY 7 1965

5/11/65

*CLM*  
*Reh*  
*Done promptly.*

44-291

6-11

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FIELD OFFICE <b>MOBILE</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MOBILE</b>	DATE <b>4/3/65</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>4/1/65 - 4/3/65</b>
OF CASE  <b>EUGENE THOMAS;                  ET AL;                  VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka;                  LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS</b>		REPORT MADE BY  SA [REDACTED] <b>b7c</b>	TYPED BY  [REDACTED]
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <div style="text-align: center;"><b>CR - EL</b></div>	

REFERENCE:

Report of SA [REDACTED], 3/30/65, at Mobile. **b7c**

Report of SA [REDACTED], 4/1/65, at Mobile.

- P -

LEAD:

THE MOBILE DIVISION

AT SELMA, ALABAMA and MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Will follow prosecutive action.

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE  MADE: 5 - Bureau 1 - USA, Montgomery, Ala. 1 - Departmental Attorney Montgomery, Ala. 4 - Birmingham (1 - USA, Birmingham) 5 - Mobile (44-1245)	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW  <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">44-28611-294</div> <div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">REC-47</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <b>21 APR 6 1965</b> </div>												
DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>NO.</th> <th>DATE</th> <th>BY</th> <th>REMARKS</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>4/6/65</td> <td>[REDACTED]</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>4/12/65</td> <td>[REDACTED]</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	NO.	DATE	BY	REMARKS	1	4/6/65	[REDACTED]		2	4/12/65	[REDACTED]		NOTATIONS  <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">COVER PAGE</div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;"> <b>STAT. SECT.</b> </div>
NO.	DATE	BY	REMARKS										
1	4/6/65	[REDACTED]											
2	4/12/65	[REDACTED]											

APR 1 1965



MO 44-1245

DETAILS

On April 1, 1965, the following report was received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory, Washington, D. C.

#0 44-1245

On April 2, 1965, the Memphis Division advised that they had interviewed [REDACTED] at Nashville, Tennessee and he advised as follows: b7c

He first met Victim LIUZZO in Selma, Alabama, about March 17 or 18, 1965, where he and LIUZZO had arrived for Civil Rights work. LIUZZO volunteered her 1963 Oldsmobile for use in transportation of Civil Rights workers, including [REDACTED]. Victim stayed in a Selma housing project apartment with a Negro family and during the march from Selma to Montgomery, March 21 - 25, 1965, LIUZZO walked in the march while her car was used extensively on the march route by several integrated groups of Civil Rights workers. [REDACTED] also said that LEROY MOTON, Negro male victim, was with LIUZZO the night of the slaying and that MOTON had used LIUZZO's car extensively.

LIUZZO was last seen by [REDACTED] in Montgomery, Alabama, on March 25, 1965, about 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. upstairs in the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church where fainting and ill victims of the march were resting.

He does not recall if LIUZZO was ill at the time nor does he know if LIUZZO was ever treated by a doctor while she was in Alabama.

LIUZZO planned to return to Detroit, Michigan, with [REDACTED] in her car, stopping en route at [REDACTED] home in Nashville, however, after victim's slaying in Alabama, [REDACTED] made other travel arrangements.

AO 44-1245

LE:gmh

The Philadelphia Office on April 1, 1965, forwarded a Certification of Birth for Mrs. LIUZZO.

This Birth Certificate was signed by C. L. WILBAR, JR., and was dated March 31, 1965, bearing the seal of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under the Number 451409. It certified that in file No. 56399-25 a record of birth was filed on April 18, 1925, showing that on April 11, 1925, in Pike Run Township, Pennsylvania, a female child, VIOLA FAUVER GREGG, was born to HEBER GREGG and EVA, maiden name WILSON.

Date 4/2/65

[REDACTED] b7c  
[REDACTED] was contacted at her place of residence, at which time she furnished the following information:

She advised that she is employed as [REDACTED] in Selma, Alabama.

On March 25, 1965, she finished her day's work at the [REDACTED] at about 6:00 PM that evening and went directly home. She advised that she has a three-year old child which necessitates her getting home around 6:00 PM each evening. She advised that she has a maid who takes care of her child during the day. [REDACTED] After observing photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, advised that she could not recognize any of these individuals as being persons she had ever seen. She was also shown photographs of a 1962 Chevrolet automobile, white over red in color, and advised that she could not identify this car as being one that she ever saw in the area of the Silver Moon Cafe.

She could furnish no information concerning the killing of Mrs. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO which occurred on Highway #80 east on the evening of March 25, 1965.

3/31/65 of Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245  
SA [REDACTED] and : bah b7c Date dictated 4/1/65  
SA [REDACTED]

document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



1  
[redacted]  
Alabama, who is employed as a [redacted]

b7c  
Selma,

[redacted] Selma, was contacted and viewed photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, SO Number 113073, date of photograph March 26, 1965; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, Sheriff's Office Birmingham, Alabama, SO Number unknown, date of photograph March 26, 1965; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, SO Number unknown, photograph dated March 26, 1965; and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, SO Number 113076, dated March 26, 1965. She stated that she was unable to identify any of these photographs as individuals known to her.

She advised after viewing the photograph of a 1962 Chevrolet, red and white in color, that she did not observe this car in the vicinity of the Silver Moon Cafe March 25, 1965.

She could not furnish any information in connection with the murder of VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO which took place on Highway 80 East, Selma, Alabama, March 25, 1965

4-1-65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

SAs [redacted] and [redacted] b7c Date dictated 4-1-65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date 3/65

[REDACTED], was contacted at his place of employment and furnished the following information:

[REDACTED] advised that he is a regular customer of the Silver Moon Cafe (SMC) and goes there once or twice a week normally to drink beer on his way home from work. He could not recall specifically whether he was at the SMC the night of March 25, 1965, but if he had been there, he probably would have left around 7:00 PM.

He advised he had no information as to who may have been involved in the murder of Mrs. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO.

[REDACTED] after observing EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., advised that he could not recognize any of these individuals as being persons he had ever seen. He was shown photographs of a 1962 Chevrolet automobile, white over red in color, also and advised that he could not identify this car as being one that he ever saw in the area of the Silver Moon Cafe.

3/31/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

SA  
SA

and  
/bah

b7C

Date dictated 4/1/65

document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

**INTERVIEWS WITH VARIOUS  
KU KLUX KLAN MEMBERS AND FORMER MEMBERS  
WHO MIGHT HAVE HAD INFORMATION  
RELATIVE TO THIS CASE**

101

Date 4/2/65

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Selma, Alabama, furnished the following information:

He advised that he was formerly affiliated with the Ku Klux Klan at Selma, Alabama. [REDACTED] also advised he has not been affiliated with the Klan for the past several years.

[REDACTED] stated he was never formerly initiated into the Klan but paid his dues and was intending to become a member but due to the amount of time taken up by his business he was unable to attend meetings.

[REDACTED] stated he is not presently active in the Klan and does not know of any present activity of the Klan in the Selma, Alabama area.

4/2/65

Selma, Alabama

File # MO 105-17 SF 19SA [REDACTED] and  
SA [REDACTED] CEB/mjrDate dictated 4/2/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date

4/2/65

[redacted] Selma, Alabama, was interviewed at his place of employment, the [redacted] Selma, Alabama. [redacted] advised as follows:

He is ashamed of the fact that he was once a member of Klavern No. 47, U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (USK, KKKK). [redacted] stated he joined the Klan approximately five or six years ago and only attended two meetings at Selma. He voluntarily left the Klan as he became disillusioned. He initially joined thinking it was primarily a social organization; however, after attending two meetings he learned that they preached white supremacy and he felt they were a somewhat radical group.

[redacted] advised that to the best of his knowledge the Klan has not been active in Selma, Alabama, area for the past four years. He has not received any information that they intend to reactivate.

At the time [redacted] joined the Klan [redacted] at Selma, the leader of the Klavern No. 47 was [redacted] does not know if [redacted] is presently active in any Klan organization. The initiation fee was \$12.50 and [redacted] is unable to recall the amount of monthly dues. The Klavern at that time met in office space above the Tillman Drug Company, Selma. [redacted] was unable to state who occupied or rented the space used by the Klan at that time for their meetings.

After attending one meeting at Selma, [redacted] was initiated into the Klan at Prattville, Alabama. He was unable to recall the exact location. He advised he took the initiation at Prattville as he was told there was no Klan member or members in Selma capable of performing the initiating ceremony. [redacted] is unable to recall any of the details of the initiating ceremony, due to the lapse of time. He also stated that inasmuch as he only attended two meetings, he is unable to recall any other members of Klavern No. 47 at that time.

[redacted] stated that at the two meetings he attended, he did not hear any member discuss any plans for violent action against any individual or group. [redacted] stated should he learn of the Klan reactivating in the Selma, Alabama, area, or uncover any plans for violent action, he will immediately notify the FBI, Selma.

4/2/65

Selma, Alabama

File # Mobile 105-17 SF 19

SAs

and

gmh

Date dictated

4/2/65

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Date April 1, 1965

1

[redacted] Alabama, was interviewed at the [redacted] and he furnished the following information:

[redacted] stated he was visiting in Montgomery, Alabama, on March 16, 1965, and that America is a free country and it was "none of the government's d--- business" as to why he participated in the klan motorcade on that date.

[redacted] was asked if he were a member of the klan and he advised that his father was a klan member, but he refused to state specifically that he was a member of the Ku Klux Klan. b7c

[redacted] advised the announcement to appear in Montgomery for the motorcade was broadcast over the radio but he refused to specify any of the details as to who made the announcement or as to what was said.

[redacted] stated that he had never been interviewed by the FBI before and that he had never been arrested for any type of criminal violation. He stated he was a God fearing man and has attended church all of his life.

During the conduct of the interview [redacted] maintained a very arrogant, cocky attitude and indicated he would refuse to furnish any specific information about the Ku Klux Klan in the [redacted] area.

The following description of [redacted] was obtained through observation and interview:

[redacted]

3-30-65

at Selma, Alabama

File # MO 44-1545  
157-650

SAs [redacted]

IR: kg b7c

Date dictated 3-31-65

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Date April 1, 1965

- 1

[REDACTED] Resident Address  
[REDACTED] Alabama, telephone  
number [REDACTED] was interviewed in a Bureau Car  
in [REDACTED], Alabama. [REDACTED] furnished the  
following information:

[REDACTED] advised that he had been a member of  
the United Ku Klux Klan for approximately one and one-half  
years. He stated after admitting to being a member of  
the organization that he would not furnish any further  
information about other members or meeting places for  
their klavern.

He stated he had participated in the motorcade  
in Montgomery, Alabama, on March 16, 1965, and that he  
had been notified about the motorcade through a radio  
announcement. He advised the radio announcement was made  
by the White Citizen's Council requesting all white  
citizens to appear in Montgomery and demonstrate for  
their civil rights.

[REDACTED] stated he felt the klan was a fine,  
worthwhile organization, but that if he ever developed  
information that members of the klan were to commit  
violence, he would furnish this information to Bureau  
Agents.

[REDACTED] maintained a very  
cooperative attitude during the entire interview.

The following description of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] was obtained through observation and interview:

[REDACTED]

3-30-65 at Greensboro, Alabama File # 40 157-651

SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Date dictated 3-31-65

4/2/65

as a [REDACTED], employed [REDACTED] furnished the following information: b7C

He advised he was formerly affiliated with Klavern 47 of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Selma, Alabama. He further advised he has not been associated with the Klan for [REDACTED] and was in the Klan for about [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated he does not plan participating in any Klan activities now and has no knowledge of present activity of Klavern 47.

[REDACTED] also stated he does not go along with acts of violence which have been committed by some members of the Klan.

[REDACTED] advised that shortly after he got out of the Klan he received on two different occasions, cards requesting that he pay up his dues and re-affiliate in the Klan. However, POSEY said he had lost interest in the Klan and would not re-affiliate.

4/2/65

Selma, Alabama

File # MO 105-17 SF 19

SA [REDACTED]  
SA [REDACTED]and  
CEB/mjr

Date dictated 4/2/65

Date 4/2/65

[redacted] was interviewed at the [redacted]  
[redacted] Selma, Alabama, and advised the following: b7c

[redacted] advised that he was a former member of Klavern No. 47, U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (USK, KKKK), for a short period of time [redacted]. [redacted] advised that he could not recall the exact dates of his membership and stated that he attended only two or three meetings prior to severing his connection with the Klan. [redacted] advised that at the time he belonged to Klavern No. 47, the Exalted Cyclops was [redacted]. [redacted] stated he does not recall who any of the other members were at this time. [redacted] advised that at the meetings he attended there were only about ten or fifteen members present.

[redacted] advised that the meetings he attended were held in a meeting hall on the second floor above the Tillman Drug Store and that he could not recall who had rented the hall or who had ownership of it at this time. [redacted] advised that since the time he attended these meetings, this building had burned and had been replaced by a one-story structure occupied by the Tillman Drug Company.

[redacted] advised that he was initiated into the Klavern at a meeting which took place in [redacted] Alabama, at a time and place that he does not recall.

[redacted] advised that while he held membership in Klavern No. 47, he does not recall any mention of violence or any plans having been made by the members to conduct violence of any type. [redacted] advised that he does not now have any knowledge that Klavern No. 47 is still in existence and stated that he would be willing to notify the FBI should he receive any information regarding the reactivation of Klavern No. 47 or any contemplated violence by any individuals in Selma, Alabama.

The following description was obtained through interrogation and observation:

4/2/65

at

Selma, Alabama

File # Mobile 105-17 SF 19

SAs

and

gmh

b7c 21  
Date dictated

4/2/65

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/3/65

7

[redacted] Selma, Alabama, who [redacted] voluntarily furnished the following information:

He joined the Ku Klux Klan in 1957 when [redacted] was the head of the Klan in Selma, Alabama. [redacted] was Grand Dragon of the State of Alabama, and he described the local Klan as being very disorganized during time he belonged. A friend, [redacted] was instrumental in getting him to join and the reason for joining was because he understood the Klan was for segregation of the races and was organized to protect segregationists. He said his main objection to integration was intermarriage. During his stay in the Klan, he participated in burning a few crosses and wore the sheets of the Klan members but denied participating in or knowing of any beatings by Klan members.

-- He got feed up with talking about wanting to beat someone that was brought up at the meetings, but said the leaders were not for this either and all the leaders wanted to do was to to things to scare or intimidate the Negro but some in the Klan wanted to knock heads. At various meetings he attended there were from 25 to 30 individuals present but he only attended about 15 or 20 meetings during his 6 months stay in the Klan. The meetings were usually held at Old Odd-Fellows Meeting Hall.

The Prattville Klan helped organize the Klan in Selma, and he described a man he believed to be named [redacted] as one of them, and said this man was an expert on Klan Kraft. All this man's speeches stressed non-violence.

He quit going to Klan meetings after about [redacted] because there was too much arguing among the members about what they were going to do. He said in addition to participating in a few cross burnings, he and other Klansmen had talked to a few white and Negro drunks who they heard beat their wives in order to try to straighten them out.

He denied knowing anything about a Klan motorcade in

On 4/2/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 105-17 Sub 19  
by SA [redacted] and [redacted] Date dictated 4/3/65  
SA [redacted]



2  
MO 105-17 Sub 19

Montgomery, Alabama, on March 21, 1965.

He believed that the murder of Mrs. LUZZO on March 25, 1965, had dried up all local remnants of Klan feeling which was about gone. b7c

He said his impression of [REDACTED] is that [REDACTED] is dedicated to segregation but is not a Negro hater. He described [REDACTED] as a politician and said he never knew [REDACTED] to encourage violence.

The following description of [REDACTED] was obtained from observation and interrogation:

[REDACTED]

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/3/651

[redacted] Selma, Alabama, [redacted]  
[redacted] White Citizens Council, Selma, was interviewed in his  
office in [redacted] and furnished the following  
information voluntarily:

b7c

There are 30 outstanding local men who compose the executive committee of the White Citizens Council and set policy and activity of the organization along with himself. The policy of the White Citizens Council is non-violence and obedience to all laws, but to fight for segregation in the courts of the land. He stressed that the White Citizens Council stays out of church affairs and has no policy in trying to influence church decisions as to segregation and integration. The White Citizens Council attempts to direct those informing the public concerning matters that are believed by the White Citizens Council to be the best interest of all people. They encourage people to send news clippings favorable to their views to other sections of the country.

He said there is no connection whatsoever between the White Citizens Council and the Ku Klux Klan aboveboard or below. He knows of no present members of the White Citizens Council of Selma, Alabama, who has ever had any connection with any Klan, however, he said it is entirely possible that some former Klan members are members of the White Citizens Council. He also stated that he knew nothing about any motorcade organized by the Klan in Montgomery, Alabama, on Sunday, March 21, 1965. He is positive that none of his executive committee or no person holding responsible position in White Citizens Council had any connection with this motorcade or encouraged anyone to join it. He said if any member of the White Citizens Council asked anyone to join this motorcade, they had done so as an individual and not as a White Citizen Council member and he has heard nothing of it.

He said to his knowledge he has had no contact with any Ku Klux Klan officers at any time.

On 4/2/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 105-17 Sub 19  
by SA [redacted] and [redacted] Date dictated 4/3/65  
SA [redacted] 25

Date 4/3/651

[redacted] Selma, Alabama,  
advised that he [redacted]  
[redacted] Selma, Alabama. He furnished the  
following information voluntarily:

b7C

He said he has never been a member of any Ku Klux Klan but was contacted in 1957 by an unknown individual who does not reside in Selma, Ala., to join a local Klan. He said he refused. He also recalls that one night two men whose names he does not know but who are not from the Selma area came by his house in sheets and hoods and he went with them in their car riding to Selma and out through country roads and back to his house. He said no activity took place and this drive was supposed to be for the purpose of encouraging him to join the Klan. He said he refused and has never filed an application, never attended a meeting, and never paid any dues to any Klan organization.

[redacted] insisted that he did not know the names or identities in any way of the persons who had contacted him to join the Klan, and could furnish no information as to how they got his name or why they selected him to become a member.

On 4/2/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 105-17 Sub 19  
by SA [redacted] and [redacted] Date dictated 4/3/65  
SA [redacted] 26

Date

4/2/65

[redacted] was interviewed at [redacted]  
[redacted] Selma, Alabama, and advised  
the following:

[redacted] advised he was a former member of Klavern No. 47,  
U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (USK, KKKK) for a short period of time  
[redacted] advised he could not recall the exact  
dates of his membership and stated he attended only two meetings prior to severing  
his connection with the Klan. [redacted] advised that during the period of  
time he belonged to Klavern No. 47 he believes that the Exalted Cyclops was  
[redacted] but that he could not be certain of this. [redacted] advised that  
he does not recall who any of the other members were during this period of time.  
[redacted] advised that at the meetings he attended there were only about ten  
or fifteen members present.

[redacted] advised that he could not recall where these meetings  
were held but stated that they were in the downtown area of Selma, Alabama,  
and that they were on the second floor of a building in this area. [redacted]  
advised he did not know who held ownership of this hall nor any of the details  
concerning its rental.

[redacted] advised that he was initiated into the Klan at a  
meeting which was convened in [redacted] Alabama, the time and place he  
does not recall.

[redacted] advised that while he held membership in Klavern  
No. 47 he does not recall any mention of violence or any plans having been  
made by the members to conduct violence of any type. [redacted] advised  
he does not now have any knowledge that Klavern No. 47 is still in existence  
and stated he would be willing to notify the FBI should he receive any information  
regarding the reactivation of Klavern No. 47 or any contemplated violence by  
any individuals in Selma, Alabama.

The following description was obtained through interrogation and  
observation:

4/2/65

at Selma, Alabama

File # Mobile 105-17 SF 19

SAs  
and [redacted]

Date dictated

4/2/65

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Date 4/3/65

[REDACTED] was contacted and advised he was formerly a member of Klavern No. 47 of the KKKK. [REDACTED] further advised he has not been active in the Klavern in over five years, and he has no plans of reactivating in the Klan.

[REDACTED] further stated he knows of no present activity of Klavem No. 47 and could furnish no information as to any activities now being engaged in by any Klavem.

4/3/5

## Selma, Alabama

File # Mobile 105-17 SE 19

**SAs**

**Land**

279

**Date dictated**

4/3/65

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APPENDIX

U. S. KLANS, KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN, INC.,  
ALSO KNOWN AS THE U. S. KLANS (USK)

A source advised on October 12, 1956, that ELDON LEE EDWARDS organized a new klan group in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1953. This organization received a corporate charter in Georgia in October, 1955, under the name U.S. Klans. The same source, and a second source, advised in May, 1960, that U. S. Klans has no direct affiliation with any previous klan group, but utilizes, with only minor changes, the klan kloran or ritual written in about 1915 by WILLIAM JOSEPH SIMMONS for use by the old Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (1915-1944).

These sources advised that the U.S. Klans has as its principal aims and objectives the promotion of Americanism, white supremacy and segregation of the races. On numerous occasions EDWARDS announced that these objectives would be attained by legal means and without violence.

The first source and a third source advised in February, 1961, that at that time a split occurred in U.S. Klans, which resulted in a great majority of the officers and members pulling out and forming a new klan group known as United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc.

These sources advised in May, 1962, that U. S. Klans is almost out of existence and only a few units remain.